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From: "Rachel Perazza" <pantherwolf310@hotmail.com>
To: A7.A7(SNESS)
Date: 8/18/98 3:31pm
Subject: proposed rule making for low power FM stations

Commisioner Ness

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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

I am writing you to show my support of the proposed rulemaking for low power FM. This matter has been too long in coming. With the recent consolidation of radio stations by major media corporations, the need for divergent voices on the radio dial is greater than ever. If it is true that the aim of the FCC is the most efficient and safe use of the airwaves for the public than the issue of low power FM is extremely relevant. If access to the airwaves is only for those with the financial clout to obtain it, then in truth there is no access for the majority of the public. The National Association of Broadcasters contends that a low power FM service will be chaos and will interfere with existing stations. I would like to point out to you that there have been 460 full-power FM stations (grandfathered short-spaced stations) operating on 2nd and 3rd adjacent channels for many years, nationwide, with no interference complaints. If these more powerful full-power FM stations don't cause interference using the 2nd and 3rd adjacent channels, then LPFM stations certainly will not cause interference either. The FCC is currently spending a considerable amount of time, money and manpower shutting down "pirate" or "micro" radio broadcasters. Often times this is at the bequest of licensed broadcasters in the same area complaining of interference from the pirates. In many cases the transmitters and other private property of these unlicensed broadcasters is either destroyed or confiscated by the FCC. They are sometimes fined quite heavily and charged with criminal activities. According to current conservative estimates, for every one microbroadcaster the FCC is successful in shutting down two more begin broadcasting. It would seem that the FCC could use their limited funds and manpower more effectively by establishing a low power FM licensing service than by attempting to shut down unlicensed broadcasters. Of course once the low power FM service is established and licensing has begun all those who still chose to broadcast unlicensed should be subject to all the restrictions that the FCC has in place. But low power should still be sufficient enough to meet the local broadcasting needs of a community. The present considerations of low power at a quarter to a half a watt are simply a bone being offered to the microbroadcasters by the NAB in hopes that they will bite. Low power standards should allow a spectrum from 5 to 100 watts. This would be a realistic and honest regulatory standard by the FCC. If the FCC truly wishes to provide the most effective access to the airways for the greatest number of people then low power FM is the most viable way to accomplish that. A team effort between the FCC and microbroadcasters could avoid the chaos the NAB is predicting. Again I voice my support of low power FM and I appreciate your honest and timely consideration of this matter.

Yours,

Kevin Norton

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